

Message Text

SECRET

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 DPW-01 IO-12 L-03 PM-09 NSC-10

SS-14 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PRS-01 RSR-01

/102 W

----- 080644

R 020345 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9460

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

INFO JCS/DIA

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

S E C R E T SAIGON 5360

NOFORN

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, VN, ID

SUBJECT: INDONESIAN OFFICERS' ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION IN VIET- NAM

REF: JAKARTA 3847

1. PESSIMISTIC ASSESSMENT RENDERED BY MG SUHUD, J-1 HANKAM AND COLONEL NASRUN (REFTEL), AS RESULT SIX- MAN INDO TEAM VISIT MARCH 18-23, DIFFERS IN MANY IMPORTANT RESPECTS FROM OUR ASSESSMENT OF OVERALL SITUATION AND APPEARS PRODUCT OF INACCURATE AND INADEQUATE BACKGROUND FACTUAL INFORMATION. WE HAVE TALKED TO LEADERS OF INDONESIAN DELEGATION IN SEEKING TO GIVE THEM A BALANCED APPRECIATION OF THE SITUATION IN VIET- NAM BUT MORE EFFORTS ALONG THIS LINE ARE CLEARLY NEEDED AND WILL BE UNDERTAKEN.

2. WE ARE NOW OFFERING TO INDODEL WEEKLY BRIEFING ON MILITARY AND POLITICAL SITUATION WHICH WILL PROVIDE EMBASSY' S BEST OVERALL ASSESSMENTS AND STRENGTH/ WEAKNESS OF RESPECTIVE SIDES. JUST PRIOR TO RECEIPT REFTEL, WE HAD AUTHORIZED CONGEN DANANG PROVIDE SIMILAR BRIEFING TO DANANG INDODEL, AND WE ARE
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NOW INSTRUCTING CONGEN BIEN HOA, NHA TRANG AND CAN THO TO OFFER
REGULAR BRIEFINGS TO INDOELS IN THEIR REGIONS.

3. EMBASSY JAKARTA, USING OUR DAILY SITREP, WEEKLY OVERVIEW,
AND OTHER REPORTS, MAY WISH TO AUGMENT OUR EFFORTS IN SIMILAR
FASHION WITH GOI OFFICIALS. PLEASE LET US KNOW IF ADDITIONAL
BACKUP MATERIALS DESIRED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

BENNETT

SECRET

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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To: EA
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JEC PARIS
OTTAWA
SECSTATE WASHDC
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